



March 29, 2017

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Gelser,

The State of Oregon is in a \$1.8 billion deficit and it may take the state approximately 6 years to recover from the current deficit. We need to work more efficiently on a creative solution to address the lack of much needed services for over 186,000 Oregonians with hearing loss.

The Statewide Community Needs Assessment report shows of an urgent need for services and we cannot wait 6 more years. We must have some kind of solution to address this challenge.

We need to establish and create continuously appropriated funds from Public Utility Commission's Residential Service Protection Fund's surplus money to fund the Department of Human Services for the purpose of administering programs for individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and those with any additional disabilities.

Please support Senate Bill 1023!

Sincerely,

Chad A. Ludwig, MSW, ADAC
President
Oregon Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Founded in 1921 and with more than 260 members, OAD's mission is to promote, protect and preserve the civil rights for more than 186,000 Oregonians who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and those with an additional disability. Visit www.OAD1921.org and www.fb.com/DeafOregon.

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